

C.H.U.G. Gazette

Official publication of the Commodore Hayward Users Group

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The Pres Sez

If any of our members plan to go overseas in the near future, here is some good information on running your 64 over there.

Compute! 1987 Issue 80 Volume 9 Number 1 on page 10, gives a rundown on parts needed to run your 64. A 200/110 volt transformer rated at minimum 200 watts; get a female 110 volt plug adapter for the computer before you go overseas. You'll also need a high quality surge protector /line filter power strip (power fluctuations can be bad in some foreign countries).

Insist that all your peripherals be hand searched as x-rays scan damage disks if they go through the machine often enough.

(In this era of lap tops your 64 and 1541 may seem like dinosaurs, but they'll do the job.

I'm not sure if the TV convert-to-monitor gadget would work with theirs, however. And I'd never carry the "portable" SX-64 as it weighs at least a ton! Editor)

You may have to sign a form promising that the entire computer setup will return to the U.S. with you.

Hope this helps, if you're planning a trip.
See you May 9th.

- George Palmer -

A Lament

He used to have a hobby
Made model boats at night.
I always took an interest
We never had a fight.
He used to tend the garden
Or sometimes sit and read
It was all so very soothing
And I never saw a weed.
He used to watch the telly
If it was bad weather
He sometimes used to go to sleep
But still we were together!
Now he locks himself away
To fight some 'Space Intruder'
And I sit sad and lonely
How I hate that home computer!

-Author Unknown -

- The Commodore Hayward User Group (C=HUG) -

C=HUG was organized to help and encourage Commodore 64/128 computer users by providing information and demonstrations. Meetings are usually scheduled for the second Saturday of each month in the Palma Ceia Park clubhouse, Hayward, 2 to 4 p.m. Guests are always welcome (we hope you'll join C=HUG). Dues are \$20 per year, per family.

C=HUG members have access to the club's library of public domain disks and may purchase the Disk Of The Month (DOTM) for \$1. and a blank disk, or \$2. without a disk, or \$3.50 by mail. Proceeds, if any, help maintain club equipment and the library.

The monthly C=HUG GAZETTE is either mailed to members or made available at meetings. We are also happy to exchange the GAZETTE and/or the club's DOTM with other user groups. If you have any questions or problems please contact one of the club officers, listed elsewhere in this publication.

- IMPORTANT NOTICE! C=HUG DOES NOT CONDONE COPYING COPYRIGHT DISKS! -
Editors - harriet and Dale Gittings

User Groups Are Great!

Commodore clubs from Bartlesville, Oklahoma through Santa Rosa and San Adreas to CHUG, have made the difference for me - from a never used gift computer to one that is used almost daily in word processing. Maybe others can figure out how to work a 64 through manuals. Not me.

I had to be shown - and helped. I don't think I'm unique.

Something none of us really expected when the Commodore 64 was big news is the need for clubs to keep our equipment going. I'm really happy CHUG keeps on chugging along . . .

Which reminds me. Could you put a note in one of the newsletters re my need for a TOWA parallel Centronics printer? If so call: 510/644-8089. Thanks.

- Sonya Cavazos -

Next meeting . . .

Saturday, 9 May at 1:56 p.m. at the Palma Ceia Park Community Room, Hayward. See ya there! And remember the June meeting is on the 13th.

INTERCHANGEABLE CHIPS

The chip numbers in the newer 64 boards are often different. Except for the 64-pin 251715-xx (the complex PLA) though, the major chips are interchangeable with there older counterparts as follows:

the 8500 is the 6510

the 8521 is the 6526

the 8580 is the 6581 and

The 8562 is the 6567 (a 6567 with a revision number lower then RB Should not be used in either older or newer 64's).

It's noted that the 128 also uses some 85xx series chips. Except for two, though, they have no earlier counterparts. The two exceptions are the 8521 and the 8580.

(From Toledo C.C.C. newsletter, march/april '98)

The Secretary's Notes

Hey! Here it is April and we had a great meeting. For those of you that weren't there, we used the other room at the park and it was nice and dry. We didn't have to wade through mud and water and we didn't have the smell of wet mildewed sheetrock. Everything about the other room is much better and we'll try to get it on a permanent basis.

An so, the April meeting was called to order by George Palmer and a discussion ensued about getting Commodore equipment at several different area Goodwill and like stores.

The discussion also went into the difficulty of getting 5 1/4" disks these days. Ed hart is saddened by the fact that he had to dump six cases into the dumpster, as he had no room to store them and he tried every possible way to give them to members. It's a shame that they are so hard to find now.

Dorothy Blaton then demoed a program that she had typed, from Compute! Magazine called Math Adventure. It's a math maze where the computer asks you to answer a math program before you can continue through the maze. It is an interesting program and we thank Dorothy for the demo.

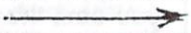
We also give Dorothy credit for having more patience than most of us by typing in that program. Most of us like the lazy way of getting programs already on disk.

John Buchter couldn't make it to the meeting, but he had given the DOTM to Dale, so Dale demoed it. It was only one side this month, with no 128 side. The first program as always is Josephine's Food Page which this month featured a Zucchini Cake. I've had zucchini bread, but not zucchni cake. Have to try this one!

Next is Calendar, an old Commodore program, but when we checked it out, it will work right through the year 2000 and after. Organ is simple music synthesizer that will let you play tunes on the keyboard and change tones and octives.

Lemonade is the old game where you become an entrepreneur and try not to go broke selling lemonade. Have at it, you capitalists. Disk Utilities15 is another group of utilities for your use and Arkanoid II is a good arcade game where you bounce the ball off a paddle. It's a challenge you might like.

For the raffle, Richard Greene took a 64 with a power pack and Ed Hart took one of the slotted hardwood disk holders. Dorothy Blaton then selected the other disk holder. Leonard Taylor came up with the next two tickets and took Masters Of Time and Kwik-Calc. John Yaccarine took Fleet System 2 and Linda Goodmoney took the Okamate 10 color printer.



SECRETARY'S NOTES, Continued:

Ed Hart then demonstrated a program called Tiny Print that prints your directory small enough to slip in or onto the disk jacket. Looks like a good one for those disks that are loaded with many programs.

Thank Ed and Dorothy for the demos. Don't be bashful friends, if you have a program you like and would like to share it with your fellow club members, just bring it in and tell Mr. President George Palmer that you have a demo and then we can all enjoy it. Participation by all members is what makes a club great and function well.

I won't see you in May, but I'll be back in June. See you then.

- Vern Viani -

THOUGHT PROVOKING TIPS

Have you looked into and leaned the full potential of your programs? Many of us just 'sample' the disk and put it aside without looking at all the stuff you can enjoy.

Never become discouraged when you discover that someone else is more skilled or knows more about what to do with a 64 or 128. They once were untutored, too.

The old joke is still quite apt: if all else fails, read the manual. Go through it once and then again and pop in a sticky note where you think you might need help.

And of course the old adage, practice makes perfect, is certainly an important part of computing. Whether it's learning how to play SokoBan's toughest level or getting your word processor to print underlines and italics, you have to practice in order to get it right.

Look for a user group, join it and then ask for help. I've had all my questions answered by fellow club members, none of whom has ever made me feel dumb for having to ask.

Remember to make an archive copy of your disk before you get started. Then, if something happens to the disk (a copy) you're using, you're protected. And of course you back up your disk as you go along.

hg

IDLE CHATTER . . .

I laughed out loud when they reported that the absolutely most popular and used Microsoft (IBM) program is Solitaire. It sound as though a lot of people have way too much time on their hands!

Before you toss out your Commodore and all its software, look into offering it to a senior center or a youth group. Our machines may be "ancient" but they still work with a lot less stress than "Big Blue's" do. Or, donate it to the club to use as needed.

I've heard more than once that membership and holding an office in a computer club is a "plus" for one's resume. I'd suggest you omit the specific make we use as there are a lot of Human Resource folks who are Commodore illiterate.

LOOK FOR ...

Member prospects - add to our roster, share info with others and help us stay alive and well. Find a new member or three.

LEND A HAND ...

If you want to add an article, cartoon or whatever to these pages, please contact the Editors. Assistance is welcome.

Look in your disk library and find something you really like then share it with us in a demonstration. That way others will be able to have a look at the program, too. hg

COMPUTER USER

I've found that disk storage boxes, while good for mass storage, are cumbersome for often used program and data disks. Some time ago I began using large three ring binders with plastic data storage pages. I was putting several different programs and data disks in one binder. This was an improvement but still cumbersome.

Recently I have been buying inexpensive heavy card 3/4 and 1 inch binders from the grocery store for each program. The spine is flat and can be easily labeled. I tape the disk sleeves to the inside front and back covers. You can put two per side in this way. Or, by carefully stacking one below the other, three or four per page may be stored.

Some programs require a lot of data disks (graphics, text, etc.) so to solve this problem I went to a discount paper store and purchased heavy card dividers that are punched for three ring binders. Very often the manuals supplied with the programs, such as the "Run Disk", fit into the sleeves. I taped an empty sleeve in the binder to hold the manual. Any changes can be quickly and easily made.

This method is also convenient for storing graphic designs, printouts and any notes you may wish to keep. I've been very satisfied with this system of working with my programs. Perhaps you will be, also.

- Ray Scott -

Tips 'n Tidbits

Snake's Nest

Do you have wires all over behind your computer desk? Which wire goes where it will be much simpler if you take a piece of masking tape or a label and mark where it goes. One on each end for the disk drive, power cord and the serial cords as well. Most printers will need marking on one end only.

Joystick Ports

One fellow I know couldn't get the "dongle" in the joystick port on his 128 so he got a joystick extension cable and it works fine.

ANOTHER TELEPHONE SCAM

I received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician that was running a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch Nine (9), zero (0), pound sign (#) and hang up. Luckily, I was suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the telephone company, we were informed that by pushing 90# you may end up giving the individual that called you, access to your telephone line and allows them to place a long distance telephone call, with the charge appearing on your telephone bill. We were further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails/prisons.

Please "pass the word."

- George Fousek -

(AT&T Global Account Dir., 4 Station Sq. Ste 400,
Pittsburgh PA 15219 (412) 642-7023)

SX-64 Printer Interfaces

Most printer interfaces that convert Commodore's serial output to parallel for connection to non Commodore printers use a separate connector to the cassette port to obtain the necessary 5 volts DC to operate. However, the SX-64's built in disk drive obviates the need for tape storage and doesn't have a cassette port. Therefore to use a printer interface on the SX-64 requires obtaining the 5 volts DC from another source.

You can find the necessary 5 volts DC in two places on the SX-64. One point is pin 2 of the users port and the other is pin 7 of either of the two joystick ports. While either can be accessed, the joy ports are easily so. Simply obtain a readily available female 9 pin D connector and solder the wire otherwise connected to the cassette port plug to pin 7.

Another solution is to obtain the 5 volts DC from the printer. Pin 18 of the Centronics parallel port is 5 volts DC on most printers. Open up the interface and solder the wire leading from the cassette port to pin 18 of the parallel connector.

This solution is preferred by many because it works on all Commodore computers, eliminating the extra wire and reduces power drain from the computer's power supply. The interface is not drawing current unless the printer is on and the interface is cleared by turning the printer rather than the computer off and on.

(From the Toledo Commodore newsletter mar/apr '98)

— WHO'S WHO IN C=HUG —

President, George Palmer	510/531-3734
Vice-President, Ed Hart	408/262-2389
Treasurer, Josephine Lema	510/783-7467
Secretary, Vern Viani	510/793-7868
Disk Of The Month, John Buchter	510/357-1002
Editors, Harriet & Dale Gittings	510/793-2514
C=HUG's address: P.O. Box 404, Fremont, CA 94537	
- Send letters, dues.. to the above address. Thanks -	

From the Editor's Notebook . . .

The May CHUG meeting looks as though it'll be interesting. We have one demo scheduled and hope for another. As usual, we'll get a peek at the Disk Of The Month, featuring one of chef Josephine Lema's favorite recipes.

Don't tell him I told you, but Dale Gittings has a surprise gift for each member at the meeting. By the way, we owe a lot to Dale for all the work involved in storing and hauling our computer, two monitors and disk drive to each CHUG meeting. Additional thanks to you members who help set up and then take down the computer each month.

One more month when we have to hunt for parking spots, but the youth baseball ends shortly and all will return to normal in a few weeks. See you May 9th.

Work is underway to repair our "old" meeting room; it may turn out to be better than new. I can remember when I first attended club meetings we had use of a storage space (with our own key) so we left the club monitor, magazines and so forth, there each time.

Finally, if you're interested in trying out a beginner's road rallye, I've one scheduled for May 17th. Rallyes are sort of like a computer puzzle but it must be solved out on the road as you look for answers. Call me if you're curious.

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MASTER DISK DIRECTORY

The C64 loads and saves disk directories the same as basic programs. You can save up to 144 file entries in the directory. This means you can set up a master directory disk. Simply format a disk on both sides and name them Directory 1 and Directory 2.

To SAVE a directory to your new disk, just load up a directory using LOAD"*.8 <return>. You don't need to list it. Then SAVE the directory to your master directory disk using SAVE"file name",8 and <return>. (Replace file name with the name of the disk it came from.) If you have a directory magic type program you can then alphabetize your disk names.

To see what is on a particular disk without pulling it out of the box, LOAD"\$",8 on the master directory disk and check it out. To see what's on the disk, LOAD and then LIST that specific directory.

(Adapted from Com-Link's Mar.'89 article)

— ATTENTION ALL EDITORS! —

We received a letter recently from Ron Fick, the CCCC's newsletter editor in Denver, Colorado. He reports that the CHUG GAZETTE we sent him last month in exchange for his publication arrived incomplete and in sorry condition, thanks to the U.S. Postal Service.

As you probably know, the USPS has instituted automated mailing nationwide. Humans rarely touch our mail. These machines were created to handle #10 business envelopes (with typed addresses, of course). Thus, the typical newsletter, folded in half and sealed with stickers or tape on the edges, is non-uniform and can (and will) get caught and chewed up in the belts or slots.

Be warned that the only solution is to stuff your club newsletter into an envelope. This means you must fold it in thirds and it may even weight a bit more, so will require more postage. On the other hand, I've received a number of club mailings just a hair over one ounce and neither the sender nor I had to pay the additional 23¢ postage! If you shop the discount office supply stores or warehouse places, you'll find envelopes as low as \$4.25 for 500.

We really enjoy your news and views, so please consider this option to assure mailings get through, especially for out of town readers. This mail problem may well explain why we've not received copies of some club's newsletters and you haven't received ours, either.

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PRINTER TERMS

DOT MATRIX - Printing is accomplished by the horizontal and vertical arrangement of dots from "pins" in either 9 or 24 pin versions. 24 prints best but a well tuned 9 pin printer can produce nice results, too. You must have a good ribbon.

DAISY WHEEL - One of the oldest printer system that's a lot like a typewriter (remember those?). this ribbon is often carbon for good results but it is a slow process.

BUFFER - A sort of storage space where data from the computer is kept before printing. (You can even get an expanded buffer, as I have on my Panasonic so I can start something else while printing.)

FONT - A type style such as Helvetica, Times, Roman, etc. (My printer offers fur type faces including script.)

TRACTOR FEED - That's when the paper has perforations on the edges and the printer "pulls" it through. A tractor feed, on the other hand, will only print one 8½ x 11 sheet and must get a new one to continue.

20 # PAPER - This refers to the heaviness (thickness) of paper. (Thinner than 20 # tractor feed paper leaves a lot to be desired.)

CPI - Characters per inch, indicating how many letters fit across on an inch of space.

LPI - How many lines fit in an inch, vertically. (I try to fit as many as I can, to fill the space — as you've noticed.)

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